



Academy Prep Center of Tampa  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Titus O'Neil to Bring "Millions of Dollars" Approach to Fundraising at Academy Prep's *Evening of Champions***

**Ybor City, FL** – The Academy Prep Center of Tampa presents *An Evening of Champions*, a fundraising gala, to benefit the Student Scholarship Fund. The event will be held on Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Academy Prep campus in Ybor. The gala will be co-hosted by Academy Prep's head of school, Lincoln Tamayo, and Bay News 9 anchor Veronica Cintron. WWE Superstar and Academy Prep volunteer and supporter Titus O'Neil is the keynote speaker.

"My life would not be as great as it is today if others had not invested their time, money, and resources in me as a youth," O'Neil said. "The kids at Academy Prep come from similar situations that I came from and I feel it's my responsibility to give back and help them get the resources and support to become powerful and positive influences in their respective communities."

This year's theme of "Celebrating a Decade of Excellence" will commemorate the tenth anniversary of the school's operation, focusing on the many achievements of its alumni and future successes of its current students. The event will also honor Lincoln Tamayo, Paul Whiting, Sr., Ted McNair, and Sierra Club – Inner City Outings for their a decade of dedicated service to our students.

*An Evening of Champions* opens the doors of Academy Prep to attendees who wish to see how the school is making an impact in the Tampa community. Attendees will kick off the evening with a cocktail reception and the opportunity to network with some of Tampa's finest business professionals. They will then live the "Academy Prep experience" and go back to school, participating in a classroom lesson led by Academy Prep's very own students and teachers. Following the classroom experience, guests will be welcome to enjoy the school's three centers of excellence with a garden art gallery, chess games on the lawn, and music before the dinner and program begin.

The fundraising gala is open to the public. Tickets start at \$500/person or \$750/couple. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. The sold-out event will be held at the Academy Prep Center of Tampa campus at 1407 E. Columbus. If individuals are unable to attend the event but would still like to make a donation, they can do so online by visiting [www.academyprep.org/tampa/donate](http://www.academyprep.org/tampa/donate)



# Academy Prep

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Center of Tampa

For more information on the Academy Prep Center of Tampa, please contact Maggie McClelland, Development Manager, at 813.248.5600 (ext 1138) or 813.486.8107 (cell) or [mmcClelland@academyprep.org](mailto:mmcClelland@academyprep.org).

The Academy Prep Center of Tampa is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. It is an urban college preparatory middle school whose mission is to inspire and empower students qualifying for need-based scholarships to be future community leaders through a rigorous middle school program coupled with ongoing graduate support. Academy Prep's main building is housed in the historic former V.M Ybor Grammar School building. This original structure was renovated, new buildings were added to the campus grounds, and Academy Prep officially opened in 2003. To learn more information, please visit: [www.academyprep.org/tampa](http://www.academyprep.org/tampa)

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